



## JESSICA RIZZO

Jessica Rizzo is a native New Yorker and graduate of NYU Steinhardt's Dance Education Master's Program; with a PK-12 New York State Teaching Certification. Her double-concentration Master's Degree includes PK-12 pedagogy and dance education within the higher-education discipline. She also holds a BFA in dance performance from the UMASS Amherst 5 College Dance Program where she was a Chancellor's Talent Award recipient. Jess now works extensively with children, adolescents and professionals as choreographer and teacher and conducts national and international master-classes specializing in the genres of modern, contemporary, musical theatre and choreography-composition.

Jess' extensive national and international performance career includes works such as: The National Tour of Guys and Dolls, The European Tour of Grease, West Side Story, Cabaret, Sweet Charity, Salute to Dudley Moore at Carnegie Hall, and appearances as guest-dancer with THE MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE & IMPULSE Modern Dance Company. Jess has taught contemporary and jazz dance at the historic New Dance Group and 92nd Street Y in NYC, was Company Director at the historic Steffi Nossen School of Dance/Dance in Education Fund and in 2008 traveled to Uganda where she taught creative-movement to misplaced children. The experience culminated with Jess being selected as a featured instructor at the Queen's Kampala Ballet & Modern Dance School. Closer to home, she was recently hired to conduct workshops for the cast of LA REVE at the Wynn, Las Vegas.

Currently, Jess is a faculty member for the PeriChild Program and Peridance Youth Ensemble at Peridance in NYC and master teacher for various dance competitions throughout the country. Recently, she has finished her Master's thesis research on the choreographic process of technically advanced adolescent dancers and is the creator of "PROJECT C;" a choreography-composition curriculum for the private studio sector. Jess is also article contributor and presenter in the choreography and "how to" teaching segments on the celebrated danceteacherweb.com. For more info, visit her website at [www.jrizzo.net](http://www.jrizzo.net).

## --CLASS DESCRIPTIONS--

### ***Modern for Preteens***

Will explore the fundamentals to basic modern technique while introducing concepts such as: Increased awareness of rhythm and working within alternative time signatures, level-use, planes, shape, exploration of space, weight shift, counter-balance, fall and recovery, "groundedness," and initiation of movement from breath; the integration of pedestrian movement and improvisation; the integration of floor work & across the floor progressions; development of a student's own movement aesthetic and sensitivity to effort qualities and dynamics

### ***Modern Choreography-Composition***

Will explore level progression of improvisation, modern movement repertory and choreographic composition and design; in order to build movement profile and creative aesthetic; while focusing on the following explored concepts: Movement analysis; choreographic structure/devices/form; motif and phrase configuration; the creative process, the editing process; constructive critique/giving & receiving feedback

### ***Musical Theatre Technique & Stylization***

Will explore musical theatre technique while accenting stylistic nuances and musicality phrasing; through center and across the floor progressions and show repertory. Will place emphasis on content for varying levels, performance and movement quality, stylization, characterization and understanding of how all these musical theatre technical elements work in unison to support a show's book and score.

### ***Lesson Planning for Dance in the K-12***

Class will focus on the specific deconstruction of lesson planning for dance in the K-12 setting: Key concepts to be covered include: Curriculum breakdown; unit planning (into lesson planning); deconstruction of lesson-plans: goal-setting, objectives, addressing state standards, developmental info, materials, preparation, warm-up, lesson introduction, exploration, development, creating, sharing, conclusion; integration of interdisciplinary connections; assessment methods; take-home examples of lesson-plans for elementary school, middle school and high-school dance education students; how to integrate K-12 lesson plans into studio curriculum